

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

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USIA-15 IO-14 SCCT-02 DRC-01 /107 W

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R 200830Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3961

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

CINCPAC

S E C R E T JAKARTA 10233

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ID, RP

SUBJ: PHILIPPINE MUSLIN REBELLION

REFS: A) MANILA 9472

B) JAKARTA 9916

1. DURING CALL AUGUST 15, GEORGE BENSON (FORMER DATT JAKARTA AND NOW PERTAMINA WASHINGTON, D.C. REP) TOLD ME GEN BENI MURDANI, G-1 (INTELLIGENCE) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND SECURITY, VOLUNTEERED FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON RESULTS OF YOGA'S MEETINGS WITH MARCOSI LAST WEEK ON INDONESIA'S ROLE IN MEDIATING PHILIPPINE MUSLIN PROBLEM (REFTEL A).

2. ACCORDING TO BENSON, MURDANI SAID GENERAL YOGA CONCLUDED GOI SHOULD DEFER ACTION (REFTEL B) UNTIL AFTER UPCOMING MALAYSIAN ELECTIONS SCHEDULED FOR END AUGUST WHEN GOM WOULD BE IN STRONGER POSITION AND NURMISURAI
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(MUSLIM LEADER) IS "EXPECTED TO COME OUT OF JUNGLE" FOR

FURTHER DISCUSSIONS.

3. AS BACKGROUND, MURDANI TOLD BENSON THAT UN RAZAK TOLD PRESIDENT SHUARTO THAT MUSLIM REBELS DESIRE EQUALITY BUT THAT WHEN MISUARI "CAME OUT OF JUNGLE" RECENTLY HE ADVOCATED INDEPENDENCE. MURDANI SAID GOI POSITION WAS TO URGE EQUAL STATUS FOR MUSLIM REBELS AND THAT AT RECENT MEETING PRESIDENT SUHARTO URGED PRESIDENT MARCOS TO MEET WITH NURMISUARI. WHEN MARCOS EXPRESSED SURPRISE AND ASKED WHY GOP PRESIDENT SHOULD MEET WITH REBEL LEADER, SUHARTO SUGGESTED MARCOS "VIEW REBELLION IN FAMILY CONTEXT WHERE FATHER TALKS WITH ONE OF HIS CHILDREN WHO IS MISBEHAVING".

4. MURDANI SAID GOI PLANS TO WATCH DEVELOPMENTS CLOSELY* HOWEVER, IF MUSLIM REBELS TAKE HARD LINE I.E. PRESS FOR INDEPENDENCE, GOI WILL BACK-OFF. OTHERWISE, GOI WILL SUPPORT RESOLUTION OF DISPUTE ON "EQUAL STATUS" BASIS AND IS PREPARED TO ASSIST IN ARRANGING GOP-REBEL MEETING INEARLY SEPTEMBER IF COMPROMISE APPEARS POSSIBLE.

5. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION DIRECTLY WITH EMBOFF ON 15 AUGUST, MURDANI INDICATED PRESIDENT SUHARTO INTENDS GOING SLOWLY IN HIS EFFORTS MEDIATE SABAH DISPUTE UNDERLINING EMPHASIS PLACED ON FACT ANY SUMMIT MEETING WHICH MIGHT TAKE PLACE IN FUTURE AMONG SUHARTO-RAZAK-MARCOS MUST RESULT IN SUCCESS. MURDANI POINTED OUT THAT LT. GENERAL YOGA HAD TASK OF LAYING GROUNDWORK IN PHILIPPINES- THE PURPOSE OF HIS RECENT VISIT THERE. MURDANI STATED INDONESIANS BELIEVED MARCOS WAS TOO INFLEXIBLE IN HIS APPROACH TO SOLUTION TO INTERNAL MUSLIM PROBLEMS. ACCORDING TO HIS CRITICS, MARCOS CONTINUED INABILITY SOLVE INTERNAL PHILIPPINE MUSLIM PROBLEM DISQUALIFIED HIM FROM DISCUSSING SABAH SETTLEMENT.

6. MURDANI STATED CURRENT ELECTION IN MALAYSIA PREVENTED FURTHER EFFORTS BEING MADE THERE TOWARD SEEKING ADDITIONAL COMPROMISE OF SABAH PROBLE. FAVORABLE OUTCOME TO RAZAK WOULD STRENGTHEN RAZAK'S HAND TOWARD PRESSING FOR SOLUTION INVOLVING COMPROMISE.

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7. IT IS CLEAR FROM FONMIN MALIK'S COMMENTS (REFTEL B) AND FROM WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED FROM MURDANI THAT GOI HANDLING THIS PROBLEM PRIMARILY IN INTELLIGENCE CHANNELS. THIS MAY REPRESENT IMPORTANCE PRESIDENT ATTACHES TO IT AND HIS DESIRE KEEP IT CLOSE TO HIM. THERE IS NO DOUBT HE REMAINS CONCERNED, PARTICULARLY IN HIGH CURRENT MUSLEM UNHAPPINESS IN INDONESIA, WITH POSSIBLE EFFECT OF UNRESOLVED PHILIPPINE PROBLEM ON SUPPORT FOR ACTIVE

GOI ROLE IN ASEAN AMONG INDOENSIA'S MUSLEMS.
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